

RMC PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA

Program Areas:

Mountains and Foothills
River Parkways
Urban Core

PREVAILING LAND USE: (Check one – no points)

- ☐ The project is consistent with local land use (zoning).
- ☐ The project is not consistent with local land use (zoning) but the city/county approves of the project.
- ☐ The project is not consistent with local land use (zoning) and the city/county does not approve of the project.

(one point allocated for each applicable criterion)

I. Planning, Feasibility, and Economic Factors – 17 points

I-A. OPEN SPACE PLAN VALUE - 1 point

- ☐ The project is consistent with the guiding principles of *Common Ground* or is part of an agency Open Space Plan that is consistent with the principles of *Common Ground* and the city has adopted the Open Space Plan.

I-B. PARTNER RESOURCE VALUE - 3 points

- ☐ The project is of significance to one or more partner government agencies that have funds available.
- ☐ Acquisition of the project would assist a government agency to fulfill its master land protection or recreation plan but matching funds are not available.
- ☐ The project is of significance to one or more local citizen groups or non-governmental organizations that have matching funds available.

I-C. ECONOMIC VALUE - 5 points

- ☐ Funding has been specifically allocated by a government and/or non-government entity.
- ☐ Development threat of the project is imminent that would preclude future park use and the project is available for sale.
- ☐ The project is available under bargain or opportunity sale conditions.
- ☐ The project is subject to substantial, but less than imminent, threat of development, with unmitigable impacts.
- ☐ The owner of the project is willing to sell.

I-D. FEASIBILITY VALUE - 8 points

- ☐ The project has clear goals.
- ☐ The project evaluates outcomes based on stated goals.
- ☐ The project identifies ways to measure success of meeting stated goals.
- ☐ Project implementation could begin immediately upon receipt of grant funds.
- ☐ The planned restoration activities are technically feasible and practicable.
- ☐ The planned restoration activities are biologically feasible and practicable.
- ☐ The project is of significance to a partner agency and/or organization that would undertake ownership and/or management responsibilities.
- ☐ The project uses best management practices consistent with *Common Ground*.

II. Urban, Recreational and Open Space Factors – 28 points

II-A. URBAN RESOURCE VALUE - 9 points

- ☐ The project holds potential to clean up an identified Brownfield.
- ☐ The project has natural geologic contours and/or vegetation and is surrounded by urban development.
- ☐ The project contributes to an existing or proposed park, natural area, corridor or greenway in an urbanized area.
- ☐ The project is located in an under-served or park-poor community.
- ☐ The project provides linkage to open space in an adjacent urban area.
- ☐ The project is located in an industrialized area.
- ☐ The project would enhance flood control measures (e.g. stormwater retention) if developed for open space use.
- ☐ The project contributes to the persistence of ecosystem processes which, if removed through development, would pose a hazard to life and property if the project were developed.
- ☐ The project contains or improves groundwater supply and/or recharge capabilities.

II-B. TRAIL/BIKEWAY RESOURCE VALUE - 5 points

- ☐ The project is identified in an existing or proposed trail plan (e.g. Master Bikeway Path Plan) or connects communities to major existing or planned trails or open space.
- ☐ The project would provide urban walkways that connect the community with existing open space.
- ☐ The project would provide amenities that would enhance public use of a trail.
- ☐ The project would accommodate a new trail into an inaccessible area.
- ☐ The project would provide a scenic buffer for an existing or planned trail.

II-C. RECREATIONAL RESOURCE VALUE - 4 points

- ☐ The project contains a suitable area for a recreational facility - educational center, picnic area, useable open space, campground, or interpretive center.
- ☐ The project could provide an access point, parking, and/or interpretive display for an adjacent protected area or overlook.
- ☐ The project could support recreational development ancillary to the primary value of an adjacent protected area.
- ☐ The project could provide additional access to an adjacent protected area.

II-E. ACCESS VALUE - 6 points

- ☐ The project would be easily accessible and provides universal access by the public with full right-of-way.
- ☐ The project is within walking distance easily accessible from public transportation.
- ☐ The project has features making it easily accessible to people with limited mobility or other disabilities.
- ☐ The project would be accessible via an adjacent protected area.
- ☐ The project has adequate space for on-site parking and/or available street parking that is located in an area where neighborhood conflicts would not arise.
- ☐ The project provides access to an existing or planned watershed resource.

II-F. SCENIC RESOURCE VALUE - 4 points

- ☐ The project is part of an area of exceptional scenic value and/or has been so identified in a government agency plan.
- ☐ The project contains unique scenic natural resources such as waterfalls, wildflower displays, geologic formations, vistas of scenic grandeur.
- ☐ The project contains viewshed of an open space area, river or public use area.
- ☐ The project contains scenic resources that are representative of the area.

III. Educational and Cultural Factors - 11 points

III-A. EDUCATIONAL VALUE - 7 points

- ☐ The project plans include active stakeholder participation in the planning and monitoring process.
- ☐ The project promotes a sense of place and community.
- ☐ The project includes on-site educational programs and research opportunities with local schools, colleges and universities.
- ☐ The project provides on-site staff or volunteers for interpretation.
- ☐ The project includes facilities for watershed education (e.g. museum, visitors' center).
- ☐ The project includes interpretive signage.
- ☐ The project includes an interpretive kiosk.

III-B. CULTURAL OR HISTORIC RESOURCE VALUE - 4 points

- ☐ The project contains a registered archaeological or historical resource of national or statewide significance.
- ☐ The project includes an expression of historic and/or community cultural values.
- ☐ The project contains a registered archaeological or historical resource of regional significance.
- ☐ The project contains a registered archaeological or historical resource of local significance.

IV. Natural Resource Factors - 21 points + points allotted for Listed Species

IV-A. HABITAT RESOURCE VALUE - 9 points + points allotted for Listed Species

- ☐ The project is used by a special status species, or a candidate for special status species according to federal, state, local, or California Native Plant Society designations. 1 Point is allotted for each Listed Species within Project Scope.
- ☐ The project contributes to the connection of existing protected core areas by serving as a habitat linkage or movement corridor for wildlife.
- ☐ The project would restore degraded connection between existing core areas.
- ☐ The project contains rare, remnant, or specially endangered habitat.
- ☐ The project contains habitat which support a unique ecological process, e.g. long-distance seasonal migration.
- ☐ The project largely contains undisturbed native habitat with a natural level of species diversity and/or species richness.
- ☐ The project preserves habitat diversity and biodiversity, both regionally and locally.
- ☐ The project contains endemic species & communities.
- ☐ The habitat provides a buffer between protected or proposed protected areas and incompatible uses (e.g. Wildland-Urban Interface).

IV-B. RESTORATION RESOURCE VALUE - 7 points

- ☐ Conditions at the project site are suitable for restoration toward an identified historic habitat.
- ☐ Suitable water resources are present, or can be derived through project activities including conservation and water recycling.
- ☐ Invasive species problems are directly addressed in the project plans, and it is reasonable to expect that control measures will be successful.
- ☐ The project contains a reasonable plan for restoration of suitable habitat.
- ☐ The project contains a reasonable plan for evaluating the success of restoration.
- ☐ The project increases the effective size of a protected area.
- ☐ The owner is willing to participate in a restoration project (e.g. Conservation easement).

IV-C. HYDROLOGIC RESOURCE VALUE - 5 points

- ☐ The project includes opportunities for water quality improvement.
- ☐ The project is located within a county-designated ecologically sensitive watershed and/or Significant Ecological Area, and/or the project contains aquatic or riparian habitat.
- ☐ The project protects watershed processes that are important for supporting downstream habitat or open space uses.
- ☐ The project makes use of recycled water.
- ☐ The project supports substantial upland vegetative cover or riparian habitat in a watershed.

Total Score _____

Multiple Benefits Factor

Additional points will be added to the total score for projects which score according to the schedule outlined below:

Multiple Benefits Bonus - check one of the following:

- ☐ If the Project total score is greater than 80% of the total available points, add 4 additional points
- ☐ If the Project total score is greater than 70% of the total available points, add 3 additional points
- ☐ If the Project total score is greater than 60% of the total available points, add 2 additional points
- ☐ If the Project total score is greater than 50% of the total available points, add 1 additional point

+ Multiple Benefits Factor _____

= Final Score _____